

New Features in PowerTeacher 1.6

PowerTeacher 1.6 introduces standards into the easy-access final grade entry area of the gradebook. It also includes key enhancements such as copying multiple assignments, extra credit / maximum points validation, a gradebook lock feature, score icons appearing in the Parent Portal, term weighting enhancements, and more! PowerTeacher 1.6 also introduces enhancements to PowerTeacher Administrator.

Pearson is dedicated to a process of continual improvement, to bring you the features you need to be successful in the classroom today and in the future. Thanks to the feedback of our customers, this release incorporates the most commonly requested items. Your feedback is important to us, and helps each new release meet and exceed the expectations of our teachers across the nation.

The following tables display a complete list of enhancements in PowerTeacher 1.5.1 and 1.6.

PowerTeacher Gradebook Updates

Standards and Measures

Feature	Description
Course Standards appear in PowerTeacher gradebook Final Grades mode	All standards and other measures assigned to a course now appear in PowerTeacher gradebook Final Grades mode.
Fill Scores for standards	Use Fill Scores feature for letter grades and numeric standards to quickly assign a score to all students in the class. Provides the ability to mass fill final standards grades and comments as well. Teachers can also clear grades and comments if needed.
Score Inspector for standards	Score Inspector in Final Grades mode allows easy entry of standards scores.
Standards detail tab	The Final Grades mode detail window displays all information about a selected standard on the Standards tab, including the name, ID, description, grade scale (conversion scale), and score type.
Related Standards tab	The Final Grades mode detail window displays the complete hierarchy of standards on the Related Standards tab, including other measures that have been assigned to the course, allowing for quick review of all items to be assessed. The hierarchy makes the intricacies of the relationship between standard easy to view and understand.
Visual relationships displayed as part of the standards columns	The columns that display in Final Grades mode visually represent the relationship between standards, giving a clear indication of the standards hierarchy. Incorporating the standards relationships into the column headers provides an elegant and visually pleasing way for teachers to delineate between different standards strands that are being assessed.
Quick select for assigning a grade for a standard	Right-click in any standards grade field to quickly select a valid grade label.
Comment Inspector for standards comments	The comment inspector for standards clearly shows which standards need comments, and presents a visual way to view all elements (scores and comments) that the school requires for a standards based report card.

New Features in PowerTeacher 1.6

Feature	Description
Quick copy and paste of standards scores	Right-click selection to Copy Scores provides quick data entry for copying scores into another standard and modifying as needed.
Final Grade and Comment Verification report updated to include standards and citizenship	Report now includes standards and citizenship when the Additional Grades option is selected.
Support for numeric standards final grades	Districts can now set up numeric grade scales (conversion scales) and specify a minimum, maximum, and number of decimal places. For example, a district can create a 0-4 scale with no decimals, allowing teachers to only enter final scores of 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 for that standard. If one decimal place is set in the grade scale, then teachers can enter in any number from 0.0 to 4.0.
Teacher preference to hide or show standards in Final Grades mode.	A preference setting that allows teachers to hide standards columns and only focus on category totals if desired. It also allows a district to permit certain teachers to start using standards, while leaving standards off the Final grades mode for those teachers who are not yet using them.
PowerSchool setting to allow a standard to be assigned to a course but not graded	Standards can now be associated with a course but not receive a grade. For example, the high-level standard "Language Arts" might be taught in the course, but only the lower level standards (for example reading, spelling, etc.) actually receive scores.

Scoresheet, Assignments and Final Grade Setup

Feature	Description
Copy multiple assignments at once	Copy any number of assignments to multiple courses using the Copy Assignments dialog.
Extra Credit and Max Points assignment attribute	Set the number of extra credit points available on an assignment and view the the maximum number of points (points possible plus extra credit points).
Max points score entry validation	On the Scoresheet, validation now occurs if the teacher attempts to enter scores higher than the max points (points possible plus extra credit points). This helps the teacher know immediately if they make an entry error, preventing students from getting 80/10 instead of 8/10.
Extra Credit and Max Points category default value	Categories can be set up with a default value for extra credit points, allowing for the quick creation of new assignments by using the category defaults. For example, if quizzes never have extra credit, but tests usually have five extra credit points, the quiz and test category defaults can be set up accordingly, making assignment creation quick and easy.
Lock gradebook feature	Teachers can now lock the gradebook by selecting lock from the File menu, or using a shortcut key.
Term Weighting allows use of any lower level term	Term weighting now allows the use of any lower-level term in the final grade calculation. For example, the Y1 grade can now be based on Quarters 1-4, not just on S1 and S2. (Added in PowerTeacher gradebook 1.5.1)

New Features in PowerTeacher 1.6

Feature	Description
Fill Scores for citizenship and standards displays the valid letter grade options	Fill Scores for citizenship and standards now displays the valid letter grades that can be entered.
Mouse-over comments added for final grades and standards	Hover the mouse over the comment icon in the Final Grade column or in the standards comment columns to display the comment text in the tool tip pop-up.

Quick Look Up, Parent Access, and Other PowerSchool Updates

Feature	Description
Standards final scores per course appear in PowerSchool Quick Lookup	A link in Quick Lookup allows administrators, teachers and parents to view all of the standards scores that a student has received in each course. Standards display by course, and show all reporting terms together.
Missing, Late, Collected and Exempt assignment attributes appear in PowerSchool Quick Lookup	Parents, teachers, and administrators can now see the Missing, Late, Collected, and Exempt assignment attributes in Quick Lookup (Added in PowerTeacher gradebook 1.5.1).
Conversion Scales now support true numeric scales in PowerSchool	Conversion scales in PowerSchool can now be created as "true" numeric grade scales, with a minimum, maximum and number of decimals allowed. For example, a 1-4 scale, with up to one decimal place.
Conversion scale items now have Grade Values in PowerSchool	Conversion scales are now more closely aligned to grade scales. The conversion scale grades now have grade values that are used for calculations when an assignment or final grade is given this label as a score. For example, an OSN conversion scale (Outstanding, Satisfactory, Needs improvement) can set the percentage value to use when O, S and N are assigned as grades or scores.
New Teacher default set to PowerTeacher gradebook rather than PowerGrade	When new teacher records are created in PowerSchool, the default gradebook type is now set to PowerTeacher gradebook, rather than to PowerGrade.
Teacher comments using colons and semi-colons are no longer truncated	Teacher comments using colons and semi-colons are no longer occasionally truncated when viewed in PowerSchool Quick Lookup.
Ability to see the PowerSchool grade scale cut-off and gradebook values for all grade labels on one page	In PowerSchool at the District level, cut-off and grade values for all grades display on the Grade Scale page.

New Features in PowerTeacher 1.6

PowerTeacher Administrator Updates

Feature	Description
School Usage page for managing standards and citizenship by school	Settings on this page enable citizenship and/or standards to appear or not appear in the gradebook.
Section Readiness report displays full school year, teacher emails, and other fixes	The report now displays the full school year (for example 2008-2009). If teacher emails are populated, they will now appear correctly. Several other fixes have been made to this report as well.
Ability to remove pushed content links	Content links that have been inadvertently assigned to the wrong teachers, courses, or schools can now be removed as needed.
Support for Firefox	PowerTeacher Administrator now supports the Firefox web browser on both Windows and Mac environments.
Search dialog can now be moved as needed	The search dialog can now be moved around the screen as needed.
PowerTeacher Administrator port is no longer hard-coded	The port is no longer hard coded. PowerTeacher Administrator can now be set to run on the same port as PowerTeacher gradebook.

Chancery SMS Specific Updates

Feature	Description
Support for the use of special course grades for numeric grading tables	Numeric grading tables can have special letter grades associated with them (for example "I" for Incomplete). PowerTeacher now supports sending any special grades back to Chancery SMS for the overall course grade.
Support for SQL Server 2008	PowerTeacher can be installed to run on SQL Server 2008.
Active Directory support	PowerTeacher is now able to use Active Directory for teacher authentication. (Added in PowerTeacher gradebook 1.5.1)
Ability to install the database on a clustered environment	The PowerTeacher database can now be installed in a clustered environment.

General Fixes / Additions

Feature	Description
The PowerSchool timeout setting	The time-out value entered in PowerTeacher Administrator is no longer overridden by the timeout setting from PowerSchool.



New Features in PowerTeacher 1.6

Feature	Description
Reporting term dates no longer appear to be off by one day	In PowerTeacher gradebook, reporting term dates no longer appear to be off by one day from the settings in PowerSchool. (Added in PowerTeacher gradebook 1.5.1)